

Hardtack - a hard biscuit or bread

"Housewife" - sewing kit

Infantry - the military branch of service made up of units trained to fight on foot

Ironclad - wooden boats that were protected with metal plates and equipped with heavy cannons; a new innovation for the Civil War

Invasion - a coordinated, planned attack into enemy territory

Kepi - cap

Limber - two-wheeled cart for a field gun, used to move the gun and carry the ammunition chest

Linchpin - a focal or key point

Military campaign - a series of military operations undertaken to achieve a specific objective, e.g., the Campaign for Forts Henry and Donelson

Military courier - a messenger

Military offensive - an attack against an enemy (an offensive maneuver)

Military strategy - the plan or idea for battle

Military theater - there were two theaters of war, the Eastern Theater and the Western Theater. The Western Theater stretched from the western slope of the Appalachian Mountains to the Mississippi River.

Minie ball (bullet) - a bullet-shaped, lead projectile designed by French Army Captain Minie, that was fired from a rifled musket

Mobilization - to prepare; an army's preparation for upcoming battle or engagement

"Mucket" - mug/bucket

Ordnance - Military weaponry; along with the ammunition and the equipment to keep them in good repair

Parapets - the shape of the earthworks

Rations - food, clothing, equipment, or ammunition issued to the soldier

Rifle musket - most common Civil War small arm of the war. Rifled muskets could fire small round balls or flanged Minie bullets.

Siege - to capture

Timberclads - wooden boats equipped with heavy cannons

"Unconditional" surrender - surrender without conditions, absolute; Union Brigadier General Ulysses S. Grant's offer of surrender terms to the Confederates at Fort Donelson.

Underground Railroad - a nineteenth century secretive network or route of escape for thousands of freedom-seeking slaves

Volunteers - someone who enlists in military service. The majority of Civil War soldiers were volunteers.